

To: Montgomery, Michael[Montgomery.Michael@epa.gov]
From: Albright, David
Sent: Wed 10/14/2015 7:25:02 PM
Subject: CA UIC desk statement
Desk statement CA UIC 10 15 2015 milestone.docx

Hi Mike,

Attached and copied below is a draft desk statement. According to Steve, they will issue a PR late tomorrow/early Friday and they will also post an updated table of 176 wells on their web site. Kate has given OPA a heads-up to what is happening and is sharing this draft.

CA UIC Desk Statement

October 15, 2015 Shut-in of Injection Wells

October 2015

U.S. EPA is continuing its enhanced oversight of California's Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources' (DOGGR) Class II Underground Injection Control program, including the state's identification of Class II injection wells that may be injecting into non-exempt aquifers, their ongoing assessment of drinking water sources that may be impacted by improper injection, the establishment of an effective process for reviewing and approving aquifer exemptions, and the state's review of all 3,000 approved injection projects. EPA's March 9, 2015 California Class II UIC Program Corrective Action Plan set out a schedule of activities and deliverables, with target milestones and compliance deadlines, to ensure that the state continues to make progress towards full compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

In accordance with requirements set forth in the March 2015 Corrective Action Plan, which the state has promulgated into its emergency UIC compliance regulations, any wells injecting into non-exempt, non-hydrocarbon-bearing aquifers with total dissolved solids levels below 3,000 mg/l TDS must shut-in by October 15, 2015, unless an aquifer exemption is approved by EPA. Since EPA has not received any aquifer exemption applications, all injection activity must cease for this category of wells. The State has confirmed that 34 wells are subject to the mandatory October 15th shut-in deadline, although only 22 of these are active. DOGGR inspectors will confirm that all affected wells have shut-in.

To access information about EPA's review of CA's UIC program, please visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/region9/mediacenter/uic-review/index.html>.

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